

Project Accomplishments

The Forest and our partners have accomplished the following to date (March 05, 2015). In 2015, Mill Creek restoration work will include:

- Removing non-native fish from the mouth of the canyon up to Elbow Fork and the lower mile of Porter Fork.
- Stocking native fish from the Mill Creek Dam up through the headwaters.
- Installation of a fish screen barrier near to the mouth of Mill Creek to prevent reinvasion by non-native fish
- Redesign the stream channel to provide for fish passage once the Mill Creek Dam is removed.
- Redesign the boardwalk to increase accessible stream access points for fishing and enjoying nature.

We will continue to work with the private land owners to deal with passage and treatment concerns. The Forest has also received notice that partial funding to remove the abandoned Mill Creek Dam will be in the President's budget proposal for 2016. We continue to look for other funding opportunities to replace the accessible boardwalk near the dam and redesign and reconstruct Tracy Lake at the Boy Scout Camp to provide a spawning channel to meet the production and educational needs.

Fiscal Year 2014 (October 1, 2013-September 30, 2014)

1. The replacement of two of the six culverts identified as partial barriers to fish movement (\$296,095 of which \$32,500 contributed funds)
2. Rotenone treatment of 7.6 miles of stream to remove non-native fish.
3. Removal of trash from 7.6 miles of stream.
4. Approval to remove non-native fish and to restore native fish in the private sections within the watershed.
5. The environmental analysis continued to remove the Mill Creek Dam and restore the associated stream channel.
6. Native Bonneville cutthroat trout were stocked in the upper few miles of the drainage.

Fiscal Year 2013 (October 1, 2012-September 30, 2013)

1. The project and the staff of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) were recognized by the Intermountain Regional Forester for the "Sustaining Forests and Grasslands Award". It is recognized that without the partners' involvement in the project it would not succeed.
2. The Forest UDWR and the fish and insect community of Mill Creek.
3. The Forest replaced three culverts in Church Fork to reduce watershed impacts from under sized culverts in the drainage.
4. The Forest removed the abandoned bridge at Elbow Fork. Partial funding was provided the Trout Unlimited (Thank You!).

5. UDWR did an emergency rule change allowing for a higher harvest level in the treatment section in August 2013.
6. UDWR chemically treated upper Mill Creek in September 2015 to remove non-native fish above Elbow Fork. The treatment was successful in remove non-native fish. It is anticipated that this section will be treated again in 2014 with native Bonneville cutthroat trout, Utah's State Fish, being stock in the section in October 2014. Members of the Stonefly Society and other sportsmen collected the fish removed in the treatment section (Thanks You!).
7. Public open houses were held on June 7 and 27, 2013 to inform the public about the project.
8. The media, state legislators and congressional staffers were invited on site to review and discuss the project.
9. PacifiCorp and Trout Unlimited provided funding for the project work (Thank You!).
10. The National Forest Foundation, a non-profit foundation founded by Congress in 1991 to help the Forest Service care for the Forest, has set a goal to help raise funds to implement the project.